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Commission for Blacks Meeting Minutes December 17, 1997

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COMMISSION FOR BLACKS

MINUTES: DECEMBER 17, 1997

The Commission for Blacks met at the Office of Diversity Resources and Educational Services (DRES) on December 17, 1997. Members present included: Roberto Benson, Joann Jeter, Alan Chesney, Clark Brekke, Rosa Thomas, Jocelyn Milton, Susan Mee, and Marva Rudolph. The meeting followed the agenda (see attached). A summary of information discussed follows.

I. Minutes of the November 19, 1997 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Dr. Brekke stated that Dr. William Hart was the third member of the Ag Campus Sub-Committee that works with searches conducted by the Ag Campus. In addition, it was noted that Dr. Celvia Dixon, also a faculty member and member of this sub-committee, had recently submitted a letter of resignation. There was no official word, however, on her employment status at the time of the meeting.

II. Dr. Roberto Benson summarized his monthly meeting with the Chancellor :

A. Dr. Chancellor's position at this time regarding increasing the number of student representatives assigned to the CFB is not to increase the number. Rather, if meeting times are inconvenient for current members, then those students may wish to be replaced with students who can meet at the scheduled times.

B. The Commission for Blacks will receive copies of SWA position vacancies from Sara Phillips.

C. By March, the CFB will receive data regarding (1) the number of Black faculty and their progress through the UTK tenure and promotion system and (2) for those who have left UTK, reasons given why they left.

III. Alan Chesney stated that Debby Shriver will work with Margie Russel and Rosa Thomas (CFB Community Outreach Committee Chair) regarding the proposed Chancellor's Award for Diversity. Rosa Thomas has arranged an initial meeting for January 9, 1998.

IV. Art Gaston and Ron Davis of the Citizens for Police Review Committee met with the CFB. There was discussion regarding the purpose of the committee, issues addressed, and how CFB can participate. According to Gaston and Davis, there are two basic committees working to study ways to improve police-community relations. The Police Review Task Force consists of twelve (12) members and started as an outgrowth of efforts made by Dewey Roberts and Diane Jordan. The Task Force meets every other Tuesday at the City County Building. All meetings are opened to the public and the next meeting is scheduled for December 23, 1997 at 6:45 in either the small or large assembly room of the City County Building. The Citizens for Police Review Committee meets the first Sunday of each month. All meetings are open to the public and the next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 1998, from 4-6 pm at Emanuel Presbyterian Church.

V. There was an update on the Black Staff Development Fund Program. Three persons have been interviewed for consideration of receiving BSD funds. Selection(s) hopefully will be made in January, 1998.

VI. New Business was a discussion about the status of the APEC and NAPEC committees-- purpose and possible effects their recommendations might have on black faculty and staff. It was suggested that CFB relay to the Chancellor that CFB will monitor the progress of both committees and look very closely at any recommendations made.

VII. Jocelyn Milton stated that she will present the film Skin Deep to the College of Law (faculty and staff) on January 21 and 23, 1998.

The meeting was adjourned. The next CFB meeting is scheduled for January 28, 1998, at 1:00 at the Office of DRES.